Flathead National Forest Planning Collaboration Process Workshop

Date: September 25, 2013
Location: FNF Supervisor's office, 650 Wolfpack Way, Kalispell, Montana

Workshop Purpose

The purpose of this Workshop is to obtain stakeholder input and advice about collaborative stakeholder engagement for the Flathead National Forest (FNF) Management Plan revision. Our intent is to convene a transparent, open, and fair process that provides multiple avenues for diverse groups and individuals to participate, but that does not contribute to "meeting fatigue" or place unrealistic expectations on FNF staff. Specifically, the Workshop will:

- Review the Stakeholder Collaboration Process Proposal and a summary of feedback that was received from stakeholders who reviewed the initial Draft Process Proposal that was circulated in June 2013.

- Discuss how to incorporate feedback, address concerns, and move towards a final process plan that will meet stakeholder and FNF interests and needs. Among the issues to explore:

  ➢ Reaching and engaging typically under-represented populations,

  ➢ Reaching and engaging stakeholders outside the immediate FNF area,

  ➢ Avoiding overburdening either stakeholders or FNF staff,

  ➢ Allowing all interested stakeholders to participate on issues they care about,

  ➢ Integrating the collaboration process with the traditional National, Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, and

  ➢ Process ground rules that will engender success.

Proposed Workshop Agenda

4:00 p.m.   Review Workshop Goals and Agenda, and Introductions

4:15 p.m.   Presentations with Q&A
- FNF
  o Overview of the FNF plan context and schedule
  o Purposes and goals for collaborative stakeholder engagement
- Meridian Team
  o Overview of the Stakeholder Collaboration Process Proposal
  o Summary of feedback and concerns

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Colorado Office   PO Box 1829 • 105 Village Place • Dillon, CO 80435 USA • Main Number: +1.970.513.8340 • Fax: +1.970.513.8348

Washington, DC Office   1920 L Street, NW • Suite 500 • Washington, DC 20036 USA • Main Number: +1.202.354.6440 • Fax: +1.202.354.6441

4:45 p.m.   Discussion: questions, reactions, additional concerns, and suggestions for the Collaboration Process Plan
- Questions or clarification about the presentations
- Big picture reactions, issues, concerns, and suggestions?
    - Does the proposed process strike the right balance between enough public involvement / not too much?
    - Other?
- Orientation meeting:
    - How do we assure diverse and well-represented participation?
    - Suggestions for content and format to ensure interested stakeholders are prepared to effectively participate in the process?
- Working groups, inter-agency group, and plenary meetings:
    - Proposed working group topics - would you add or modify in any way?
    - Recruitment and membership – suggestions to keep a core group engaged in each working group while remaining open and accessible to other interested stakeholders?
    - Suggestions for format and scheduling of working groups and plenaries to provide efficiency, while maximizing participation?
    - Role, membership, and scheduling of inter-agency group – how will this group interact with the other working groups?
    - Ground rules – feedback on those that are proposed? (Draft ground rules will be available at the Workshop)
- E-Collaboration:
    - Will the proposed e-collaboration tools and strategies enable interested stakeholders to: a) get the information they need to provide meaningful input, and b) the ability to provide input regardless of their internet capability?
    - What other tools and strategies might you suggest?
- Process advisory group:
    - Feedback on proposed role and suggestions for membership?

5:45 p.m.   Break (with snacks)

6:15 p.m.   Welcome any Late Arrivals, Briefly Summarize Earlier Discussion

6:30 p.m.   Discussion Continued about Collaboration Process Plan

7:45 p.m.   Next Steps:
- Convening the Process Advisory Group
- Planning for the Orientation Meeting

8:00 p.m.   Adjourn